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Thursday, February 8, 1906

Salt Lake cannot sincerely say that it
reciprocates the liking the fog is show-
ing for it.

Dr. Payne cannot be counted among
those who think that the courts could
be improved.

Bill boards are ugly, to be sure, but
think of what they may be concealing
from view!

Apparently, winter is headstrong
enough to propose to stay around for
six weeks more, anyway.

Those armory banquet speeches will
be printed, as those who are to deliver
the orations will want to read them.

Gov. Cutler can see no valid objec-
tion to the use of the armory for a pri-
vate purpose, as the purpose suits him.

There may now be expected a few
new oaths of vengeance, aimed at those
who reveal the language of the old one.

Gov. Cutler will not think of nam-
ing a successor to Mr. Spry on the land
board, until he learns whom he is to
name.

Prof. Wolfe's testimony convinces the
hierarchy that anything that may be
said against the professor is entirely
proper.

Owners of ground on which bill
boards stand can seldom see, however,
that the boards are ugly, as they yield
revenue.

Senator Smoot can prove that poly-
gamy is being prosecuted in Utah, by
citing the case now pending in Davis
county.

Though this is not New Year's time,
it is permissible to make a good resolu-
tion not to send any one a course
valentine.

President Smith did not know, of
course, that Prof. Cluff had taken a
plural wife, but he referred to the lady
as "Sister Cluff."

Church leaders now realize that a
great mistake was made when the ven-
geance oath that does not exist was
administered to Prof. Wolfe.

When Prof. Wolfe said that there
were no prosecutions for polygamy in
Utah, he had not heard of the case
against Plant, the Gentile.

Gen. Geoghegan must admit that the
holding of the Lincoln banquet in the
armory might make him feel worse, if
he were required to attend it.

Mr. Spry will not admit that the
Utah delegation is wrong on the Phil-
ippine sugar measure, unless, of course,
the administration asks him.

Apostle Taylor can prove that the
statement that polygamy is flourishing
here is untrue, as he has only taken
two or three wives in recent years.

When the ladies report to Prof.
Hyatt that their complexions are en-
tirely satisfactory, he may feel more
like making an earnest effort to ban-
ish the fog.

Members of the Utah delegation are
convinced that Maj. Dick Young is ex-
tremely well posted on the sugar ques-
tion, as he has recently talked with
President Smith on it.

Prof. Cluff is quite sure that he is not
mistaken in thinking that he took a
plural wife, and yet he might not be

able to remember the ceremony if he
were called on to testify at Washing-
ton.

A NON-RELIGIOUS CULT.

Dr. James M. Buckley presents one of
the most effective and convincing argu-
ments in the Christian Advocate, of
which he is the editor, in favor of the
exclusion of Apostle Reed Smoot from
the United States Senate.

Not in all the literature on this sub-
ject has there been an utterance of
greater weight. As is well known Dr.
Buckley would not commit himself to
this view until he had given two years
of close examination to the facts as
they were produced in the testimony at
Washington, and as they have been ad-
duced by the Americans of Utah. Com-
ing to his final conclusion it is no won-
der that so great a man should be able
to re-enforce his opinion by flawless
logic. On another page of this paper
Dr. Buckley's article is produced in full
and The Tribune commends it to the at-
tention of readers. One forcible para-
graph, which would seem to cover the
whole case and leave the proponents of
Smoot without a shadow of defense, is
here quoted:

If there were a non-religious organiza-
tion in the United States for the promo-
tion of polygamy, and a Senator of the
United States, who himself did not com-
mit polygamy, were to affiliate himself
with that society and be one of its di-
rectors, is it not reasonable to believe that
so scandalous an act would be regarded
by the Senate of the United States as a
reason for not allowing him to sit as a
Senator?

That is cold fact. Furthermore in ex-
tension of Dr. Buckley's argument it
may be stated with truth that Reed
Smoot, apostle, is a member of a non-
religious organization. Joseph F. Smith
is the embodied law of the hierarchy.
His will is its duty. He is not a religious
man. He is a pretender in his faith, as
he is in his citizenship. Among the
definitions of "religious" given by Web-
ster, and the real conception by the
world of the word "religious," we find:

Pertaining or relating to religion; con-
cerned with religion; teaching or setting
forth religion; set apart to religion.

And "religion," in its turn, is best de-
fined as:

The recognition of God as an object of
worship, love, and obedience, right feel-
ing toward God as rightly apprehended.

In this view what possible claim can
Joseph F. Smith or the organization of
which he is the absolute ruler, make
upon the word "religious?" He does
not apprehend God rightly or otherwise.
He does not worship, love, and obey
God. Joseph F. Smith profanes the
name of Deity. He is not a religious
man; he is a mere blasphemer. Even
the poor god whom his poor mind can
conceive is defied by him according to
his own confession of unfaith before the
Senate committee. Not until the wor-
ship of sin shall become a religion can
Joseph F. Smith be called religious.

And while he is at its head the hier-
archical organization of which Reed
Smoot is a member is distinctly non-re-
ligious.

SENATORIAL SELECTION.

The old contention is up in Idaho, as
to the naming of a candidate for Sen-
ator by the people. It has been pro-
posed there, as elsewhere, to nominate
the party candidate in the party con-
vention, the Legislature to vote for the
candidate so designated. This is op-
posed by others and probably it will
not be done by the Idaho conventions,
or either of them, at the present year's
action.

The general argument against the
proposition to have the candidates for
Senators nominated in the party con-
ventions is that it is better party pol-
icy to leave the prize open, so that
all the heavy party workers and speak-
ers will give their best efforts in the
campaign, taking their chances against
each other afterwards, with the Leg-
islature; that if the choice was made
in the nominating convention, the in-
centive to work would be taken away
from the party men who did not get
the nomination. But this is a feeling
that we believe must give way; the
usual hope of party reward would keep
the party's "big guns" active, just as
the defeat of a candidate for Govern-
or or other office often makes him
even more prominent in the campaign
than he would have been if he had
been the nominee. All work for their
party, because they want it to win.
And as it is with the other offices, so
it would soon come to be with the Sen-
atorship. No one could afford to be
lukewarm in the campaign because he
had not been nominated for the Senate;
any more than he could afford to be
lukewarm if he had failed to get the
nomination for Governor. And in
neither, or any case, could a party
leader afford to be lukewarm in a
campaign.

We look to see this agitation for the
popular choice of United States Sena-
tor, work out on such lines as that
—a prior nomination by conventions or
primaries. It is not in the least
necessary to have a Constitutional
amendment to bring about this popular
choice. It was not necessary to amend
the Constitution to effect a complete
change in the electoral college. That
body, as planned in the Constitution,
was intended to exercise real power;
to actually elect the President and
Vice-President. But now it merely reg-
isters the people's will as expressed at
the November election every four
years. It is not a body of any real
power; it does not possess the least
initiative. It is but a means of regis-
tering the result of the actual election.
And the Constitution remains precisely
as it was.

We look to see the same change oc-
cur in the actual practice of electing
United States Senators; the people in
fact doing the electing when they elect
the Legislature, and the Legislature
registering the result on the dates
specified by law. It will be a mighty

relief for the Legislatures, too, for
when that time comes they can get
on with the legislative work at hand,
and not fritter away their time with
squabbles over the Senatorial election
as now, prolonging them often to the
end of the session, and even then fail-
ing to elect.

ANOTHER QUORUM VACANCY.

Mattiner Wood Merrill, apostle of the
Mormon church, is dead. He was one
of the most intense men of his quorum.
Holding supremely to the professions of
faith as they were enunciated from time
to time and to the private construction
which the high authorities of the
church as Living Oracles were wont to
place upon doctrines and public demon-
strations, he remained from the time of
his first service as an apostle until the
day of his death solely a subject of the
church and kingdom of God.

Apostle Merrill was of sturdy stock.
Born in New Brunswick and inheritor
of the virile character of the people who
settled and conquered in that land, he
showed throughout his whole career the
most unyielding nature. According to
personal statements made by him
which are now recalled, his joining of
the Mormon church was the result of a
special vision accorded to him from On
High. At nine years of age he was
working in the hay field when suddenly
he became unconscious, and before re-
covering his normal sense he had seen
Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Nauvoo,
the Salt Lake Valley, and had realized
the various experiences through which
the Mormon people were to pass. He
became convinced of the truth of the
religion established by Joseph Smith,
including plural marriage, by the vision
which came to him at that early age.
Ten years later, when he encountered
the Mormon elders, he was baptized.
With this startling experience, which
seemed to him a reality, it was but nat-
ural that Apostle Merrill should be ut-
terly regardless of the outside world,
its opinions, its conventionalities, and
even its laws—if those offended against
or sought to transcend what he be-
lieved was a divine commandment.

It should always be remembered of
this man, to his credit, that he did not
seek to cover his religious convictions
and his practices by a cloak of false-
hood. He was too brave to lie, and too
honest to equivocate. He lived out his
life according to his professions of
faith, a devotee of plural marriage,
apostle in the church, a believer in the
literalness of a temporal Kingdom of
God "established in these last days and
in these valleys of the mountains" to
rule all the world.

Apostle Merrill was an extremely
practical man and entirely successful
in business. He had a big heart; he
was intelligently benevolent, was for-
bearing and gentle with his neighbors,
and, while not a man of extraordinary
brilliance, was justly esteemed as the
possessor of a powerful intellect. His
memory will be revered in the annals of
his people.

THE PRICE OF GAS.

We are sorry to see the Snow-Darst
company asking for a change in their
franchise which will allow them to in-
crease their charge for gas from the
seventy-five cent rate fixed in their
franchise to eighty-five cents per thou-
sand feet, an increase of ten cents, or
thirteen and one-third per cent. The
reason given for this proposed increase
is no reason at all; it does not apply to
the gas rate, but is a matter wholly
affecting the advancement of the time
when the company will get in its plant
and begin to earn money. The gas rate
is an entirely different matter. The
change proposed would cost the
people of this city a million dollars;
for their bills would not be for two
years, but for fifty years. It would be
a cruel outrage upon the public to
make this raise.

The Tribune favored granting the
franchise when this concern asked for
it. The reason was that the gas rate
of the old company was extortionate;
and the old company was getting a
new franchise with a maximum rate
far beyond even what it was then
charging. The probability was that the
old company would not seek to put this
maximum charge in its franchise unless
it foresaw a time when it might be
possible to make the consumers pay
that maximum charge, and in the
meantime, this old company was charg-
ing far above the rate which in other
cities is called robbery.

To relieve the trouble from this im-
position, and have the price of gas put
on a reasonable basis, The Tribune fa-
vored the Snow-Darst proposition, on
the representations made by the gen-
tlemen who were in charge of the en-
terprise. They protested that the rates
specified in the draft of the franchise
which they were seeking to have grant-
ed by the Council were satisfactory and
ample; the returns they would receive
on their investment and expenditure
would be sufficient, especially as they
had such immense supplies of good
gas-making material in their mining
claims, and such economic processes
for producing the gas.

Relying on those representations, as
we had the right to do, and assuming
that these gentlemen knew the details
and requirements of their own propo-
sition, we openly advocated their fran-
chise, as promising needed relief to the
consumers of gas. We do not under-
stand that the promoters of this enter-
prise claim now any error in their cal-
culations, or that they could not easily
do what they agreed to for the price
named; on the contrary, it is under-
stood that they have financed their en-
terprise on the basis of seventy-five
cent gas, and that so far as the general
enterprise is concerned, all is well. But
the suggestion is that if the increased

rate is granted, the company will hurry
their work and get in their gas supply
quicker at eighty-five cents than they
will if the seventy-five cent rate re-
mains. We fail to see the connection,
however, between these two proposi-
tions. The company will naturally get
its plant in as quickly as possible and
begin supplying its customers, for un-
til this is done it will be all outgo and
no income for the company. And there
is no business reason to believe that
the increase of ten cents in the gas
rate would hurry the plant in by a
minute. It is impossible to suppose that
there would be any willful delay in
this; the company will get in its gas
supply as soon as it possibly can any-
way, or it is culpable; it neglects the
first and best business principle.

We trust, therefore, that the Council
will refuse to grant any increase in the
gas rate. The rate was established in
the franchise that exists after full and
careful calculation, and was demon-
strated to be sufficient. And that demon-
stration should stand.

THE INSURANCE CONVENTION.

The convention of State Insurance
Commissioners which has just con-
cluded its sessions in Chicago, took
such emphatic action upon a number
of the most vexed insurance questions
of the day that the Record-Herald
feels justified in concluding editorially
that the deferred-premium policy
must be abolished, and it considers
that "it is also clear that the trick
policy must go, that the 'loading'
must be limited and expenditures con-
fined to it, and that every possible ef-
fort must be made to provide policy-
holders with some effective means of
controlling the mutual company's man-
agement."

It was a most encouraging conven-
tion. It declared, by a vote of twenty-
two States against seven that "defer-
red dividend policies must be pro-
hibited in the future. Annual account-
ing and provisional apportionment of
surplus must be established to protect
all deferred dividend policies now in
force. Policy-holders must be given
representation in the management of
mutual companies, probably by being
permitted to send district representa-
tives to an annual meeting. Standard
forms of insurance policies should be
adopted by all States under uniform
laws." These are all excellent recom-
mendations for legislation; and if the
States could be got to enact uniform
laws along those lines, most of the
worst abuses in the life insurance sys-
tem would be eradicated.

But there was one enormous handi-
cap on the policy-holder which was not
definitely passed upon: that is the ex-
actions of the expense accounts. These
have within a few years risen from
about twenty-five per cent to sixty,
seventy and even eighty per cent.
With the keeping of that ex-
pense within reasonable and business-
like bounds, there is no doubt whatever
but that insurance could be offered for
a considerably less premium. But the
convention left this important matter
to the judgment of the committee on
legislation, that committee to handle it
in such manner as it might consider
most effective.

It is vastly encouraging to see this
firm stand taken by the Commissioners
of Insurance. It was a little late for
them to take it, but now that they are
awake to the evils that have existed
(some of them have been awake all
along, as Commissioner Host of Wis-
consin), we trust that each will not
slack his efforts until the desired leg-
islation is had, and also the rightful
steps are taken to restrict the expenses
of extending the business.

YES, THEY GO.

The Democratic organ of the Mormon
church announces in a scare head:
"DAILY ALLOWS GAMBLERS TO
GO."

That is true, and not only does As-
sistant City Attorney Daly allow gam-
blers to go, but the entire administra-
tion permits and insists that they shall
go—with a warning not to come back to
Salt Lake City until, if ever, the church
shall again be in control.

No wonder the organs of the church
howl because Daly allows the gamblers
to go. The Morris administration never
allowed them to go; it herded them
in their dives and hell holes. They
were its slaves. They paid tribute, po-
litical and otherwise, to its profit—and
probably its prophet.

So long as the hundreds of tin horns,
boosters, thugs and burglars were yield-
ing their tithes to the ecclesiastical ad-
ministration the organs of the church
were determined that the gamblers
should not go, and to that end they pre-
tended that the gamblers were not here.
Attorney Daly and the other officers
of the city are to be congratulated be-
cause of the will that goes up from the
church organs. These latter had a
foolish hope that the gamblers would be
requested to remain to form the nucleus
for another ecclesiastical campaign to
gain control of the city administration.
Incidentally it may be remarked that
it is naturally surprising to the church
organs for Daly to allow the gamblers
to go so long as they had a dollar. The
Morris administration would never have
permitted this. So long as a gambler
had the money with which to get out
of town the ecclesiastics insisted that he
should remain and get more money out
of the workingman.

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